

Spring 8-15-2013

ENG 5003-001: The Ethics of Pleasure in the Renaissance

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English 5003: The Ethics of Pleasure in the Renaissance
Fall 2013/Caldwell

Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu

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Hours: Tuesday 1-3, Thursday 10-11, and by appointment

Assignments and Expectations

Attendance and Participation (15%)

I expect you to do both regularly. These texts will be difficult to read, but that should not hinder you from trying to understand them or from participating in class. Be bold and proactive in the face of difficulty. You should read carefully and thoroughly, bring all texts to class, and be ready to discuss them.

Secondary Source Responses (15%)

Each week we will read an article-length secondary source that I will assign to the class. You are responsible for writing a 500-1000 word response to the author's arguments with your own reading of the primary text (note that simply saying you agree or disagree won't cut it). Twice during the semester you will be assigned to present your response to the class. The goal of your report is to deepen our understanding of the week's reading and to generate conversation about an important aspect of the week's reading/s.

Research paper (50%):

At the end of the course, you will turn in a ~20-page seminar paper on a topic of your choice related to the course. You should plan to meet with me within the first few weeks of the semester in order to determine a suitable topic for your research paper upon which you will work for the duration of the course. A 500-word abstract with an accompanying preliminary annotated bibliography will be due by the 10th week of class. This work should culminate in a compelling, relatively well-researched paper. I am happy to help you with your work at any stage: when you need help, seek it out.

Oral Defense of Paper (20% of your grade)

Our readings for the last week of class will be a full draft of your papers. During that final class you will each be given 10 minutes to summarize your research paper—much like you will during your oral defense of your master's thesis. Because we will all have read your paper, we will be able to pose incisive questions to you about your thesis and/or research—questions similar to those you might receive if you give a conference paper or when you defend your master's thesis. You should be prepared to elaborate and/or defend your ideas. I may also ask you to make some connections to other materials or ideas that we have covered in the course.

Course Readings

Aug. 20

Week 1: Golden Aspirations for a Leaden World: Protestant Aesthetics in the Late 16th Century

Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defense of Poesy*

Aug. 27

Week 2: Renaissance Morality

Edmund Spenser, Letter to Raleigh and *Faerie Queene*, Book 2, cantos 1-6

Sept. 3

Week 3: Art and Artifice

Edmund Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book 2, cantos 7-12

Sept. 10

Week 4: Female Sexuality and Chastity in Elizabethan England

Edmund Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book 3, cantos 1-6:

Sept. 17

Week 5: "Be bold, but not too bold...": The Limits of Pleasure

Edmund Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, Book 3, cantos 7-12

Sept. 24

Week 6: Miltonic Women

Comus (PDF)

Paradise Lost 1-6

Oct. 1

Week 7: Miltonic Marriages

Doctrine of Discipline and Divorce (PDF)

Paradise Lost 7-12

Oct. 8

Week 8: Coterie Poetics, Masculinity, and Eroticism

John Donne, *The Anatomy of the World*, selected elegies, and poems

Oct. 15

Week 9: Pleasuring the Aristocracy I

Ben Jonson, criticism, poetry, and masques

Oct. 22

Week 10: Pleasuring the Aristocracy II

Ben Jonson, *Epicoene*

Abstract and annotated bibliography due

Conferences

Oct. 29

Week 11: Caroline Religious Experience: The Beauty of Holiness

Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici* (PDF)

George Herbert, poetry

Nov. 5

Week 12: Politicizing Pleasure: The Civil War, Cavalier Poetry, and Pastoralism

Anti-Cavalierism (PDF)

John Suckling, poetry

Richard Lovelace, poetry

Izaak Walton, *The Compleat Angler*

Nov. 12

Week 13: Pastoral Annihilation: Marvellian Pastoralism

Andrew Marvell, poetry

Margaret Cavendish, *Convent of Pleasure* (PDF)

Nov. 19

Week 14: Pleasure and Modernity: Reviving Lucretius

Lucy Hutchinson, poetry (PDF)

Stephen Greenblatt, selection from *The Swerve* (PDF)

November 22: Papers due via email

Dec. 3

Week 15

Presentation of Seminar Papers

Oral examination of papers